

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Ables, et al.

Serial No.: 09/593,550

Group Art Unit: 1774

Filed: June 14, 2000

Examiner: Jill M. Gray

For: STRING BINDERS AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME

Attorney Docket No.: 24764A (OC 0149 ROA)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to: Attn: Examiner Jill M. Gray, Box AF
Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 fax number (703) 305-3599 on:

July 11, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

(Signature) James D. Dettmer

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Madam:

Applicants submit this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration in response to the final Office Action in the above-entitled application, mailed March 12, 2003.

REMARKS**Status of claims**

Claims 17, 18, and 22-31 are pending in the above application. Claims 18 and 29-31 stand allowed and Claims 17 and 22-28 stand rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this case, and request reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the following remarks.

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.764A (OC 0149 ROA)

102(b) rejection of claims 17, and 22-31

Claims 17, and 22-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by commonly-assigned U.S. Patent No. 5,972,503 ("Woodside").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as Woodside is improperly applied as a reference. As noted at the time of filing, Applicants claim priority from 09/280,808, now US patent 6,579,616. The filing date for the '808 application was March 30, 1999. Woodside issued Oct. 26, 1999; the '808 application was co-pending with Woodside. Therefore Woodside is not a proper 102(b) reference, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of the claims, and request prompt notice of allowance of claims 17 and 22-28. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (740) 321-7167 if any unresolved matters remain.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568, including any fees for an extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Dated: July 11, 2003